

HOUSE No. 1045

By Ms. St. Fleur of Boston, petition of Marie P. St. Fleur and others that the Department of Education be directed to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent students from dropping out of school. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Marie P. St. Fleur	Bruce E. Tarr
Robert A. Antonioni	Peter J. Larkin
Robert M. Koczera	Dianne Wilkerson
James B. Leary	Barbara A. L'Italien
Patricia D. Jehlen	Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr	Kathleen M. Teahan
Gloria L. Fox	Elizabeth A. Malia

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PREVENT STUDENTS FROM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
- 2 the contrary, the department of education shall, no later than
- 3 December 31, 2005, develop and implement a comprehensive
- 4 strategy to provide assistance to school districts and schools to
- 5 help address the student dropout problem in public schools, par-
- 6 ticularly those within urban and rural areas. In the development of
- 7 the strategy, the department shall engage public and private enti-
- 8 ties who are responsible for servicing these students. The strategy
- 9 shall build upon existing programs and initiatives that have
- 10 proven successful in preventing students from dropping out of
- 11 school. The department shall take into consideration, at a min-
- 12 imum, the following:
- 13 (1) Analyses of annual district and school dropout data;
- 14 tracking of students; risk factor identification;

15 (2) Any local, state and federal resources and programs,
16 including, but not limited to, extended school services; literacy;
17 early intervention; family resource and youth service centers;
18 mental health services; alternative education services; drug and
19 alcohol prevention programs; school-to-career programs; school
20 safety grants; criminal justice programs; social service programs;
21 and other relevant programs and services that could be used in a
22 multi-dimensional effort;

23 (3) Comprehensive student programs and services that include,
24 but are not limited to, comprehensive student evaluation, coun-
25 seling, mentoring, extra instructional support, tutoring and other
26 educational strategies for elementary, middle, and high school stu-
27 dents who are demonstrating little or no success in school, who
28 have poor attendance, or who are affected by other risk factors
29 that contribute to the likelihood of their dropping out of school, as
30 well as home visitations, and parental training for the parents or
31 legal guardians of such students; and

32 (4) Evaluation procedures to measure progress within school
33 districts and schools in eliminating the problem of students drop-
34 ping out of school.

35 The department shall serve as the lead agency for providing
36 assistance to districts in the development and implementation of
37 dropout prevention strategies and plans. Agencies or other public
38 entities that the department determines are necessary to assist in
39 this effort shall provide such assistance.

40 The department shall file any comprehensive strategy devel-
41 oped under this section with the joint committee on education, arts
42 and humanities.